Development Programme of Cashew & Cocoa for extending the area under cashew by raising new plantations with improved high yielding varieties. The Scheme was continued during the Ninth Plan. The cashew development programmes have been subsumed under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture Supplementation/Complementation of States' Efforts through Work Plans from October, 2000. Till 2000-01, about 1.4 lakh hectares have been brought under new cashew plantations in various States.

(b) Assistance was provided to the State Governments for replanting of senile cashew plantations with improved high yielding varieties. So far about 48,000 hectares of senile cashew plantations have been replanted with improved varieties.

Gauge conversion work of Lumding-Badarpur-Silchar Section

*366. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether gauge conversion work in Lumding-Badarpur-Silchar section of NF Railway is on progress;

(b) if so, on which date the work has initiated and the probable date by which the work is likely to be completed;

(c) whether the work is proceeding as per schedule; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps to be taken to expedite for completion of the work?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a)Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The work was included in the Budget 1996-97. No target date of completion has yet been fixed. The work is in progress and would be completed as per availability of resources.

Archaeological site beneath Gulf of Cambay

*367. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether an ancient Harappa like archaeological site, dating back to about 4000 B.C., has been discovered beneath the Gulf of Cambay;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and